

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**27 January 2009**

### **Ice Hockey Leagues form Interest Grouping**

**Düsseldorf, 27 January 2009 – The six leading professional European ice hockey leagues have allied to form the new Hockey Europe interest grouping. The interests of the leagues involved were represented by Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft.**

Founding members of the alliance taking the legal form of a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) and having its seat in Cologne, Germany, are DEL Deutsche Eishockey Liga (Germany), SM-Liiga (Finland), Slovnaft Extraliga (Slovakia), Elitserien (Sweden), O2 Extraliga (Czech Republic) and Schweizerische Eishockey Nationalliga (Switzerland). The objective of Hockey Europe is to intensify the relations among the members against the background of the increasing competition between the Russian oriented Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) and the North-American National Hockey League (NHL) and to achieve a uniform public appearance.

Hockey Europe will additionally deal with marketing and optimizing professional ice hockey tournaments in Europe, and with enhancing co-operation with the American, Canadian and other professional leagues and their clubs, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) and its national member associations and other sports organisations.

In 2006, Luther advised on the formation of the Group Club Handball EEIG, an alliance of the leading European handball clubs modelled on the “G-14”, an organisation of European football clubs.

On behalf of the European ice hockey leagues:

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft, Düsseldorf: Christofer Mellert  
(Partner), Bianca Geier (both Corporate / M&A)

**1.602** characters including spaces

---

## **Brief Profile of Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH**

Luther is one of the leading German commercial law firms providing comprehensive services in all economically relevant fields of legal and tax consulting. The full-service law firm employs more than 280 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented at 13 German economic centres and at important investment locations in Europe and Asia with its five international offices in Brussels, Budapest, Istanbul, Shanghai and Singapore. Its clients include medium-sized enterprises and large corporations, as well as the public sector. Luther is part of the PMLG international group of law firms ([www.pmlg.eu](http://www.pmlg.eu)) and is the German member of Taxand, a worldwide network of independent tax firms ([www.taxand.com](http://www.taxand.com)).

Luther is a law firm with an entrepreneurial approach: our innovative awareness aspires us to provide our clients with customised legal advice that addresses individual needs and delivers the greatest possible economic benefit. Our lawyers and tax advisors have a solid understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience in collaborating on complex tasks.

Further information is available at: [www.luther-lawfirm.com](http://www.luther-lawfirm.com)

---

## **Press Contact**

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

Annette von Frankenberg

Anna-Schneider-Steig 22

50678 Cologne

Phone: 0221 9937 18013

E-mail: [annette.von.frankenberg@luther-lawfirm.com](mailto:annette.von.frankenberg@luther-lawfirm.com)